



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Biography

Brigadier General R. L. “Van” VanAntwerp **Commander and Division Engineer, South Atlantic Division** **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Brigadier General R. L. “Van” VanAntwerp became the Commander and Division Engineer of the South Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 4, 1996. In this assignment, General VanAntwerp is responsible for military and civil works planning, engineering/design, and construction programs in eight southeastern states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. He is also responsible for Corps of Engineers projects in Central and South America. Military programs include design and construction for the Army and the Air Force. Civil works responsibilities include flood control, navigation, hydropower, recreation, water supply and emergency response to natural disasters. The division employs some 4,500 men and women and has an annual budget of approximately \$1.4 billion.

Prior to his current assignment, General VanAntwerp was the Executive Assistant to the Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. His military career began in 1972 and includes command and staff assignments with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and combat engineer units in the United States and the Persian Gulf. He served as Chief of Staff for the Corps of Engineers and commanded the Los Angeles District, leading the Corps’ recovery efforts for the Northridge Earthquake of 1994. He commanded the 326th Engineer Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during Desert Shield/Storm.

General VanAntwerp also served as the Chief of Military Construction, U.S. Army Western Command, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, and as the Executive to the Chief of Engineers. He taught for three years as an instructor and associate professor at West Point.

General VanAntwerp is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and holds a Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan and a Master of Business Administration degree from Long Island University, New York. He has completed Ranger, Airborne, and Air Assault training; the Engineer officer basic and advanced courses, Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in Virginia.

General VanAntwerp’s awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal and three Meritorious Service Medals.

A native of Benton Harbor, Michigan, he is married to the former Paula Eberly. They have three sons (Jeffrey, Lucas and Robert) and two daughters (Julia and Kathryn). General VanAntwerp is the National President of the Officers’ Christian Fellowship.